

1, APRIL 26, 1993
JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION
Claims and the Law

Kuwait reports 'anti-Bush Iraqi plot'

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said Monday it had arrested a group of Iraqis equipped with explosives and arms. Newspapers said eight agents employed by Baghdad had planned to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to the emirate last month. A statement issued by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abd Al Aziz Dakhil Abdullah Al Dakhil made no mention of how many people the government had arrested or when. But it said Iraq had been interrogated and a quantity of arms and explosives had been seized. The statement said Iraq was bent on trying to undermine Kuwait. "This will lead to nothing but more lamentation for the Iraqi people and to more tension and instability in the region," the statement said. Newspapers reported that eight intelligence agents employed by Iraq had been arrested on April 13 and had intended to assassinate Mr. Bush and set off a car bomb during a visit he made to the emirate on April 14-16. Mr. Bush was accompanied on the visit by his wife Barbara and two of their sons. Also on the trip were former Secretary of State James Baker, former White House Chief of Staff John Sununu and former Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady. The London-based Saudi newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat earlier identified the eight as seven stateless Arabs of Iraqi origin and one Kuwaiti.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردن تايمز يومية ملخصة لبيانات الأنباء الأولى

Sudan peace talks open in Nigeria

ABUJA (R) — Sudan's government and the main southern rebel group headed by John Garang opened a fresh round of Nigerian-brokered peace talks in Abuja Monday. Nigerian Vice-President Angusius Alakbar opened the talks with a call for genuine compromise that would insure substantial progress to end one of Africa's longest-running civil wars. Colonel Garang, leader of the mainstream Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), was not present at the opening.

Ciampi asked to form Italian government

ROME (AFP) — President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro named Italian Central Bank Governor Carlo Azeglio Ciampi Monday to form the country's 52nd post-war government. Mr. Ciampi, 73, announced the decision after meeting with the president. He will replace Giuliano Amato who banded in his government's resignation Thursday.

Columbia lifts off

CAPE CANAVERAL (AP) — Space shuttle Columbia thundered into orbit Monday with seven astronauts on a science mission chartered by Germany and years over due. The 2.02-million-kilogramme shuttle rose from its seabed pad on time at 10:50 a.m. EDT (1450 GMT), tearing through thick clouds as it arced out over the Atlantic Ocean. It was the third attempt to launch Columbia on the laboratory research mission. The first, one month ago, ended abruptly with an engine shutdown.

Iran sets June 11 presidential poll

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Monday registration of candidates would start next Saturday for June 11 presidential elections, widely expected to give Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani a second four-year term. Tehran Radio quoted Interior Minister Abdollah Nouri as saying registration would be open for five days. The official list of candidates will be announced a week later following vetting by the Guardian Council. Mr. Rafsanjani, 58, a pragmatist cleric who has tried to revive Iran's war-torn economy and improve its foreign ties, said in February he was ready to seek reelection. No other serious candidate has come forward although newspapers have mentioned other possible contenders such as Tehran's maverick Mayor Gholamhossein Karbaschi.

Demirel presidential bid hits snags

ANKARA (AFP) — A storm of opposition has broken around Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel in his bid to win broad support as presidential candidate in Turkey to replace Turgut Ozal who died 10 days ago. Mr. Demirel's traditional right-wing True Path Party has proposed him as more or less automatic successor, though a vote has to be obtained in the 450-seat parliament next month. But coalition partner Erdal Inonu of the Social Democratic Populist Party made it clear at the weekend he intended mounting stout resistance to a straightforward walkover. He said he was worried about the future of the coalition government. His party has 54 seats in parliament, and Mr. Demirel 182.

\$100,000 wired to blast suspects*

NEW YORK (AFP) — Suspects in the World Trade Centre blast received nearly \$100,000 wired from foreign banks, including some transfers from Iran, the New York Times reported Sunday. The daily quoted investigators as saying authorities believe the Feb. 26 explosion at the two towers here, in which six people were killed and 1,000 wounded, was part of a "terrorist" plot. Five suspects of Middle Eastern origin have been charged in the case, but no country in the region has been mentioned publicly by U.S. authorities for alleged involvement. A sixth suspect is still being sought. Federal authorities have acknowledged that \$8,000 from Germany was traced to some of the suspects.

Peace talks resume today after four-month hiatus

Palestinians head for ninth bilaterals urging more active American role

Combined agency despatches

AMMAN — Palestinian negotiators left for Washington Monday to resume Middle East peace talks after a four-month break, saying they hoped the United States and Israel would offer some progress.

The overall head of the delegation urged the United States to take a more active role in bringing about a settlement to the Arab-Israel conflict.

Faisal Husseini also warned of "tragic consequences on the region and the whole world" if the 17-month-old Middle East peace process collapsed.

Mr. Husseini was accompanied by 10 other Palestinian negotiators and half a dozen advisers on the 13-hour trip to the U.S.

capital.

The head of the delegation to the talks, Haidar Abdul Shafi, and five other delegates from the occupied Gaza Strip flew to Washington at dawn Monday from Israel's Ben Gurion airport.

The Syrian, Lebanese and Jordanian delegations left for Washington Saturday. The Israeli arrived Thursday.

The Palestinian delegation is returning to the United States reluctantly under orders from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, who has staked much on winning concessions from the Israelis.



Palestinian delegates to peace talks pose for a group photo Monday prior to their departure for Washington (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

In Tunis, Mr. Arafat said he hoped the coming round "will be a turning point in the course of the negotiations."

"I hope the American and the Russian sponsors, and especially the American sponsor, will take into its consideration that this round is decisive and constructive measures should be taken," Mr. Arafat said.

Washington's meeting will not be attended by negotiators Ghassan Khatib and Samir Abdullah, both members of the Palestine

People's (Communist) Party who have demanded Israeli concessions before the talks start.

These include the phased return of the 396 Palestinian exiles and a commitment from Israel that it carry no further expulsion and halt human rights abuses in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Husseini said: "We call on the United States to take a more active and firm role in the upcoming peace negotiations in order to

bring about a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli dispute."

"We are hoping that real and substantial progress will be achieved in the upcoming round of negotiations, otherwise the peace process will collapse and the whole region will not be able to bear its consequences."

He said at the opening session of peace negotiations, his team expects Israel to announce its

(Continued on page 5)

Expelled stage sit-in, page 2

Israel wants Palestinians to seize 'historic offer' for peace

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Monday urged the Palestinians to seize Israel's "historic" offer to run their own affairs in the occupied territories.

"We from our side are ready,

to take risks, ready to make

compromises, but the comprome-

ses must be mutual," he said.

Mr. Rabin said he hoped the

Palestinian delegation in particu-

lar would be prepared to be

offered this chance."

It was an "historic offer" which would allow the Palestinians to take over practically all the adminis-

tration of the occupied West

Bank and Gaza Strip, he said in a

message marking the 43rd anniver-

sary of Israel's creation,

broadcast on the Arabic service of

Israel Television.

Mr. Rabin is ready to grant the

Palestinians limited autonomy on

the West Bank and Gaza Strip

with elections to be held to an

administrative council.

Under the plan Israel would

maintain control of the borders,

defence, foreign affairs and Ju-

dicial settlements during a five-year

interim period when the final

status of the territories will be

worked out.

But the Palestinians are de-

manding full autonomy, with

elections to a legislative body as a

first step towards an independent

state.

Mr. Rabin urged Palestinians

Sunday to trust that the Jewish

state was sincere in wanting

peace.

In an interview on Israel Tele-

vision, Mr. Rabin said Israel

meant business about peace.

"We from our side are ready,

to take risks, ready to make

compromises, but the comprome-

ses must be mutual," he said.

Mr. Rabin said he hoped the

Palestinian delegation in particu-

lar would be prepared to be

offered this chance."

It would be worthwhile to

create once a meaningful step

forward (with Palestinians) be-

towards the interim period," he

said.

Mr. Rabin emphasised that

negotiations on the permanent

settlement would be based on

U.N. resolutions 242 and 338,

which enshrine the principle of

Israel trading land for peace.

In another interview, Mr.

Rabin said he believed in theory

that Jews had "right to all of the

land of Israel." In practice,

however, this would mean adding

nearly two million Arabs to

Israel, which would mean the end

of the Jewish state, he said.

"I see that as the loss of the

historic mission of my generation

... to determine the destiny of the

Jewish people, to establish the

state," Mr. Rabin said.

Israel Radio quoted Foreign

Minister Shimon Peres also as

saying he hoped Palestinians

would seize the "opportunity for

peace."

Mr. Peres said he believed the

situation in the region could de-

teriorate if no progress was made

in peace talks, according to the

radio. He was speaking at an

award ceremony for outstanding

soldiers.

The U.S. State Department's

planning chief Samuel Lewis said

he expected progress to be made

at the peace talks.

Mr. Lewis, a former U.S.

ambassador to Israel, told Israeli

Radio after talks with Mr. Rabin

he was "optimistic" and that there

were "good chances" for progress

to be achieved in Washington.

Mr. Lewis had private talks

with Mr. Rabin, a spokesman for

the prime minister said he

declined to reveal the nature of

the discussions.

He arrived Sunday and will

also meet Mr. Peres.

According to the daily Haretz,

Mr. Lewis will ask the govern-

ment to be more flexible in the

talks and to lift the closure of the

occupied territories occupied.

The Clinton administration's

plan to take a higher profile in the

peace talks than the previous

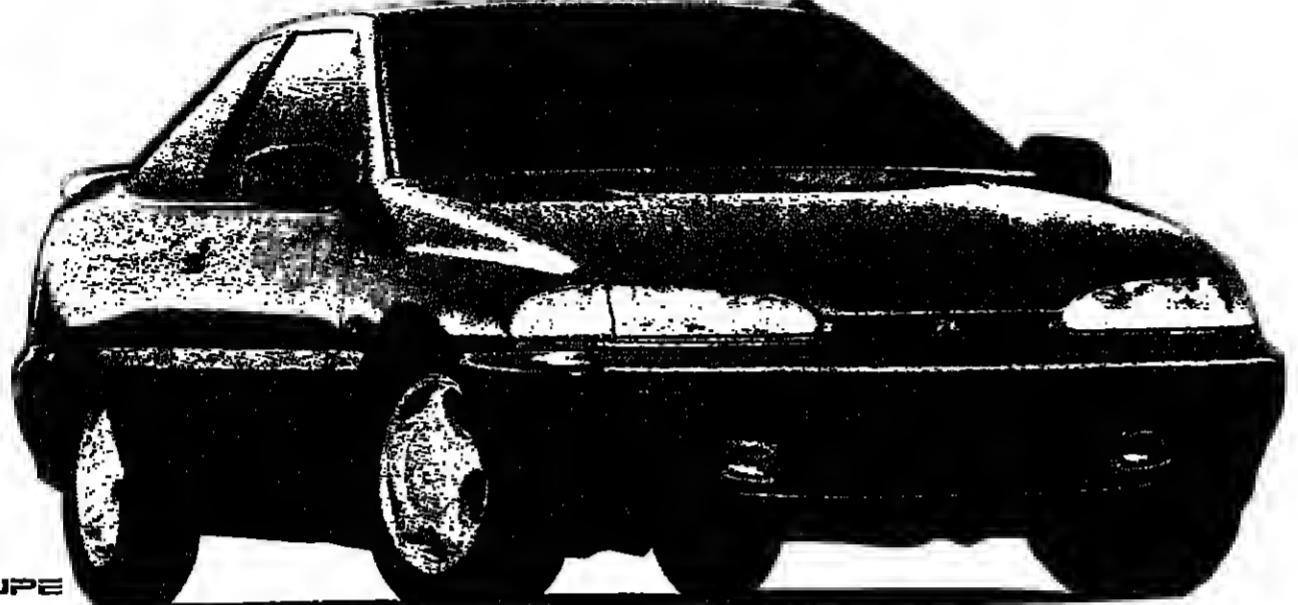
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St. Ephraim Church Tel: 771751.
Assyrian International Church Tel: 824326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824326.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel: 622824, 654922.
Church of the Nazarene Tel: 675691.
Church of the Redeemer ... Tel: 638526.

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ... Magyar News in French

18:30 ... News in Hebrew

19:15 ... News in Arabic

19:30 ... Beeldje About

20:30 ... Forever Green

21:15 ... News in English

22:00 ... Feature Film

22:20 ...

Fajr (Sunrise) Drama

22:30 ... Drama

23:12 ... Asr

23:45 ... Magreb Isha

23:55 ...

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively cold and partly cloudy, and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.:
Amman 8 / 18
Aqaba 16 / 27
Deserts 8 / 20
Jordan Valley 14 / 26

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings: 62.54%.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mohammed Al Nahwi 693925
Dr. Khalid Mu'addi 743200
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikha 752465
Dr. Adnan Al Zaghoul 659100
Firat pharmacy 778336
Al Asmaa' pharmacy 637053
Nairosh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeissani pharmacy 637660
Nairosh pharmacy 623672
Naib pharmacy 847632

ZARQA:

Dr. Rajeh Saqr (-)

EMERGENCIES

FOOD CONTROL CENTRE

767111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Headquarters

Rasaa 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 92, 621111, 637777

Fir Brigades 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Traffic Police 843402

Firefighting pharmacy 856390

Al Asmaa' pharmacy 630321

Nairosh pharmacy 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality

Complaints 7771013

Telephone Information

(directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 06-532200

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-532200

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hilwa Modern Hospital (09)980990

IRBD:

Princess Bassma Hospital (02)275555

Great Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Im Al Nafis Hospital (02)347100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel: (09)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Aqaba (RJ)

10:30 Mecca, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

10:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

17:35 London (RJ)

17:45 Cairo (RJ)

17:45 Frankfurt (RJ)

20:50 Vienna (RJ)

Saudi Communist Party does not dream of power, but insists on basic reform

By Sausan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Saudi Communist Party (SCP) does not have any illusions of reaching power in its puritan Muslim homeland. Its moderate aim is to continue to insist on instituting a democratic form of government in the kingdom, said Hamad Al Mubarak, a member in exile of the SCP.

The SCP is demanding reform of the political process, and not a radical change in the system. "We are only asking for democracy, not the downfall of the monarchy," Mr. Mubarak said.

The absence of democracy,

he added, has brought together opposition parties and forces in Saudi Arabia and increased the public's support for them. The SCP has managed to cooperate with the Democratic National Alliance and the Shi'ite reformist movement, he said.

"The SCP cannot be ignored as an important political force in the country. Even the government looks for our literature and our analysis of events," he claimed. Support for the party, Mr. Mubarak added, is found throughout Saudi Arabia, but is mainly located in the south, where a large labour population lives.

He refused to disclose any numbers or percentages of the party's strength, explaining that it is an underground party and thus it is impossible to know numbers.

Mr. Mubarak is anticipating a change in the name and the platform of the party at the SCP's next conference. He refused to divulge any information about the time and place of the meeting.

He said the SCP, which dates back to the 1950s, changed its name to the Saudi Communist Party in its first conference in 1975. Now, Mr. Mubarak said, the SCP is discussing these changes in order to focus on the priorities of the current era and to become a mass political party.

He said the SCP is socialist in its principles. But, he said, "in this period, it believes it should focus on democracy, human rights, social development, political and economic independence, perceiving that socialism is something that may materialise in the very distant future."

Democracy, Mr. Mubarak said, has widespread support in Saudi Arabia, even among members of the royal family, but it is finding resistance from King Fahd's branch of the ruling family.

Asked whether a meeting was held between Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz and the SCP, Mr. Mubarak said no official meeting was held, but that Prince Abdullah met with certain individuals accused of being members of the SCP. He added that the crown prince is popular in the country and a known supporter of democracy.

He emphasised that "if democracy is not instituted in

Expellees stage overnight sit-in near Israeli lines

MARJ AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Nearly 400 Palestinian expellees began a night-long sit-in facing Israel's military line in South Lebanon Monday, protesting the resumption of Arab-Israel peace talks in Washington.

The sit-in was part of a "martydom march" the expellees launched from their tent camp toward the Israeli army checkpoint at Zommaraya on the northeastern edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone."

As they dug in for the night, spokesman Abdul Aziz Rantisi said: "We hold the Palestinian and Arab delegations to the talks responsible for every drop of blood that could be spilled during our confrontation with enemy soldiers."

Israel expelled the men Dec. 17, claiming they were Muslim fundamentalists belonging to groups like Hamas who instigated violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It's the only way we can protest the betrayal by the Palestinian delegation which is going to the so-called peace talks after promising not to return to Washington before we go home," Dr. Rantisi said.

With a smile, Nasser Hamreh, 29, a legal expert in Bethlehem, said: "Of course our protest today will change nothing at all in Washington, but it is important for the people of Gaza and the (rest of the occupied) territories."

"We are going to stay here. It doesn't make sense to risk getting hurt," Doctor Omar Farsouq said. "We are going to camp here, and being pictured by the news media is our only way not to be forgotten in Washington."

With a smile, Nasser Hamreh, 29, a legal expert in Bethlehem, said: "Of course our protest today will change nothing at all in Washington, but it is important for the people of Gaza and the (rest of the occupied) territories."

"I hope this helps to isolate the Palestinian delegation," he added.

"Without a doubt the Israelis will announce a more flexible timetable for our return when the talks resume, but we don't trust them," Mr. Hamreh said.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:15 Larnaca, Vienna (OS)

17:45 Khartoum (SU)

17:45 Dubai (AZ)

07:00 Bucharest (RO)

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Licence to spy

THE Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) is operating in the U.S. as a government within a government. This much was revealed recently when police in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas have disclosed that ADL has been running a massive nationwide intelligence-gathering operation against a wide spectrum of political groups operating in the U.S. Included in these groups are not only Arab American organisations but also the National Association for the Advancement for Coloured People (NAACP) and Greenpeace as well as scores of others. This belated discovery came on the heels of the equally shocking revelation less than a year ago that AIPAC, another major Jewish Organisation based in the U.S. capital city, was also conducting a secret espionage operation against several American establishments and personalities. For these purposes, the two Zionist agencies recruited a string of police officers and put them on their payrolls. But what adds insult to injury was the equally damaging disclosure that the information gathered by these two ostensibly American groups were passed to foreign countries including Israel and South Africa. The extent of the Jewish espionage within the U.S. can be best illustrated by the fact that ADL alone kept secret files on no less than 950 political and cultural groups and more than 12,000 U.S. citizens presumably protected under the U.S. Constitution from such illegal acts.

It remains to be seen what the local and federal justice departments intend to do about these clearly illegal actions. In the meanwhile, though, what should be on the minds of Americans now is whether these two presumably charitable organisations would continue to enjoy their tax-exempt status under which they have been able to gather tax-deductible contributions and pass them on to finance their operations. The broader concern should be whether these two sister Jewish establishments should continue to be licensed by local and federal authorities after being caught flouting U.S. constitutional laws in their most sensitive areas.

There is nothing more serious than conducting espionage activities on nationals within a country. ADL and AIPAC have both abused their privileges and violated the trust that state and federal governments have had in them as essentially charitable agencies engaged in benign activities. If the two establishments escape U.S. justice scot-free despite the damaging information about them, then we have a right to question the integrity of American justice, its fairness and even-handedness. This is not the first time that Jewish Americans have been caught spying on their own country in the service of Israel. The case of Johnathan Pollard several years ago still rings loud in everybody's memory. Pollard spied on the U.S. military and supplied the information to the Israelis. Ever since the infamous Rosenberg case in the early fifties, the case history of Israel in the context of espionage is full of both publicised and confidential reports involving American Jews spying for Israel. Only by taking firm action against the most recent examples of this spying can there be an effective end to this dangerous phenomenon.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ON THE eve of the resumption of the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks, we find the Arab parties in closer coordination than ever before said Al Dastour Arabic daily Monday. The paper noted that such a coordination constitutes a positive element, contributing to the success of the peace negotiations. Furthermore, the talks this time are being held for the first time under the sponsorship of the Clinton administration which ought to be given a chance to honour its commitments and to keep its promises of playing an active role in the peace talks. It said that the Israelis also have offered some promises, albeit ambiguous, concerning measures to create a suitable atmosphere for the negotiations, especially with regard to deportation policies and the improvement of conditions for the Palestinian people under occupation rule. It said that though we realise the immense difficulties to be encountered in the talks, and the obstacles that are still to be overcome, we do recognise the role which Washington ought to play if the peace process is to make a headway. As we realise that this could be the last chance for peace that could be acceptable to the future generations, said the paper, we remain optimistic and holding on to our legitimate rights. It said that the Arabs are also hopeful that the solid stand and collective efforts can help achieve a settlement and peace based on U.N. resolutions and the international legitimacy.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Monday accused the major world powers of plotting to annihilate the Islamic Nation. Citing the ongoing events in the Bosnia-Herzegovina, Khaled Mahadieh said that hardly a day passes without an announcement in London, Washington, Paris and Moscow that force could be used to end the Serbian aggression on the Muslim people of former Yugoslavia. But the fact is that these capitals are doing nothing to stem the Serbian onslaught and alleviate the sufferings of children, women and old people, said the writer, he said the U.S. is capable of doing something to end the conflict without waiting for approval from its European allies. The European and the Americans are only interested in rebuilding the war-torn country for the benefit of its non-Muslim inhabitants and not in saving innocent lives, charged the writer. He said that the Europeans and the Americans, who are so quick to flex their muscles in northern and southern Iraq, are reluctant to end the barbarism of the Serbian forces.

The View from Fourth Circle

Never again, and again, and again ...

By Rami G. Khouri

By a great historical coincidence, this week we have been able to juxtapose several contemporary and past incidents that speak much about the real state of human political morality. In the United States and some parts of Europe, there has been dramatic remembrance of the holocaust and the uprising in the Warsaw ghetto 50 years ago, all of which has been commemorated by the opening of the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. By all accounts that I have seen on television and read about, this is a chilling monument. The holocaust never fails to strike human beings' deepest fears, vulnerabilities and emotions — as it should — for rarely in history has so much cruelty and inhuman violence been unleashed against such helpless victims. We keep hearing the hallmark words that are a historical verdict on the holocaust — "never again" — words that are supposed to seal this as an aberrant episode that cannot and must not be repeated because of the extent and vigilance of our moral consciousness. "Never again", we hear, and all decent human beings nod in solemn accord and confirmation.

"If the threats emanating from ... conflicts ever become too grave, if they should threaten the comforts and vital resources of the dominant cultures of our world, we can expect a massive and barbaric military response."

But there is something that bothers me about the moral solemnity of the holocaust remembrance, something that tells me that the distinction we make between history and contemporary humanity is somehow not honest, perhaps not really valid, or maybe it simply is not working as it should. For while much of the western world, and especially the United States, rightly remembers the moral savagery and the inhumanity of the holocaust, the world witnesses current situations in which humanity is savaged and morality is deferred on a scale that is not as grotesque as the holocaust in conceptual or numerical terms, but is gruesome and chilling in its own right.

The brutality of the events in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the situation in Iraq and the status of southern Sudan are three cases in point that need to be juxtaposed against the rhetoric and the moral fabric of contemporary human society. To the credit of most commentators and politicians in the western world, especially in the United States, we bear many voices today questioning whether humankind has really absorbed the lessons of the holocaust. These voices ask: How can we say we have learned the lessons of the holocaust if we stand by and allow the carnage in Bosnia to continue?

To this, I would add: Bosnia is only one example among several others, such as Iraq and southern Sudan. The juxtaposition of today's mass human suffering and wholesale genocide of entire societies and ethnic groups against the historical events of the

holocaust is somehow ineffective because clearly humankind seems willing to allow mass death and suffering to continue in societies that are deemed to be peripheral, expendable, or unimportant. The real, valid and disturbing historical comparison is as follows: When the Nazi genocide against the Jews started in Europe half a century ago, the western world acted with much the same lassitude that the world shows today for the mass deaths taking place in Bosnia, Sudan or Iraq.

The holocaust happened because western societies then did not act with sufficient force to stop the mass killing of Jews, gypsies and others whom the Nazis had targeted. The really valid test of morality vis-a-vis the holocaust is not what the world thinks of it today, but what the world did about it in the 1930s and early 1940s. It did very little, until Nazi expansionism and Japanese militarism threatened the geopolitical status quo in Europe, Russia, and the Pacific.

The dramatic moral fury that the world exhibits today vis-a-vis the holocaust is partly and rightly an attempt to atone for the omissions and sins of the past, to recognise that the failures of the past were grave and unconscionable, and should not be repeated. But they are being repeated today, with equal moral callousness, in Europe and the Middle East. It is estimated that over 100,000 Iraqi children have died in the last year because of the nutritional and health impact of the embargo against Iraq. Hundreds of thousands of Sudanese are dying before our eyes. One bears the phrase "never again" uttered by well-intentioned people whose political actions affirm otherwise. "Again and again" is perhaps a more accurate historical and moral verdict on humankind's capacity to confront the spectre of mass death at the hands of fellow beings.

The historical lesson is clear, if ever so grim: If human beings wish to kill other human beings in massive numbers, the rest of the world appears willing to watch the carnage, perhaps even to derive geo-strategic and political gains from it. The criteria of historical and contemporary lassitude appear very evident now. Marginalised societies and cultures will be allowed to drown in their own blood if they are deemed peripheral to the survival and sustenance of other, more important societies. The Jews and gypsies of Europe were peripheral to the western world half a century ago, and the suffering and vulnerable communities that suffer before our eyes today are, apparently, deemed equally peripheral to our world and to our human conscience.

This is perhaps the most gruesome lesson of the end of the cold war that we have to deal with, and live with. It seems acceptable, if unfortunate, that hundreds of thousands of Arabs or Bosnian Muslims or others should die, because these are peripheral people, fringe cultures and expendable communities that are judged to be tangential to the life quality of the other people who live in the Middle East, Europe, or the North Atlantic rim. Here, perhaps, is the first rule of the "new world order" that we are asked to endure, if not to embrace. The world is imperfect, unjust and full of brutal self-interest. It speaks of desire to see a thousand points of light, but it must simultaneously endure a thousand points of brutality and carnage.

The calls for political and military action to stop the suffering

and the dying in Bosnia, Iraq, Sudan and other endangered cultures are widespread, sincere, and urgent. But the political and military action to redress the visible wrongs is slow, insufficient, and carefully measured in the criteria of minimal risk. The moral concern and communal outrage that we express and that we hear expressed by others is vastly outweighed by our political caution and perhaps by a measure of moral exhaustion. The verdict is compelling: Peripheral people can suffer, and unimportant cultures can die. It happened in central Europe half a century ago and it is happening in other parts of the world today.

We can be sure of one thing, however, if the threats emanating from these conflicts ever become too grave, if they should threaten the comforts and vital resources of the dominant cultures of our world, we can expect a massive and barbaric military response. This happened in Europe in the 1940s, in Iraq in the early 1990s, and it will surely happen in Serbia if the Serbs suddenly threaten more than the tangential culture of the Bosnian

"While much of the western world, rightly remembers the moral savagery and the inhumanity of the holocaust, the world witnesses current situations in which humanity is savaged and morality is deferred on a scale that is not as grotesque as the holocaust in conceptual or numerical terms, but is gruesome and chilling in its own right."

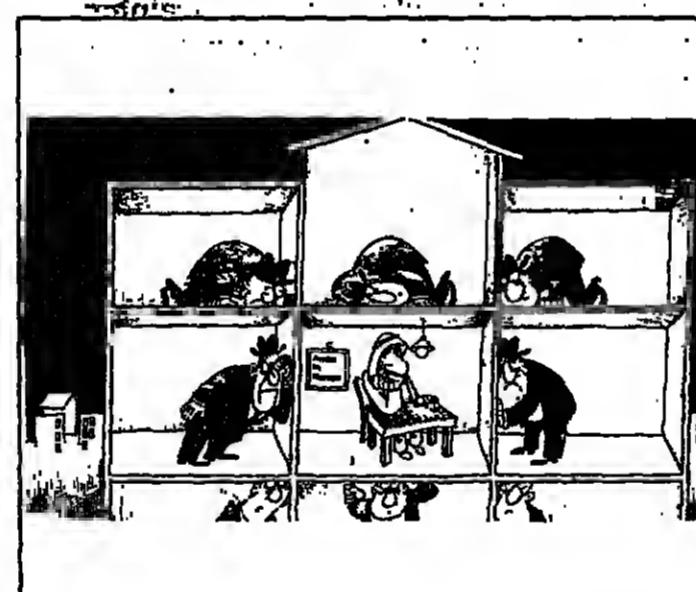
Muslims. In other words, peripheral cultures can kill one another; they may disturb the conscience of the rest of the world, but they should not threaten the contentment of the world's central powers or upset the balance of regional power in areas such as the Middle East.

These are grim and disturbing concepts, but they appear to be validated by the facts of our own contemporary actions, just as they pertained to mid-century European history. We who inhabit this region and deal with western powers in a variety of ways should take the time to ponder these points, and to draw appropriate conclusions. It is perhaps comforting to many that the world should, in retrospect, expand such intense moral and political energy on remembering the horrors of the holocaust. But this was little comfort to the victims of the holocaust half a century ago, just as it is laughable to the victims of the world's current wars and mass deprivations. Again and again, we hear the cries of "never again" drowned out by the screams of those who die today, within earshot of our moral exhortations, and in the shadow of our compassion for the victims of the past.

© RAMI G. KHOURI

A charge of massive spying

By Jane Hunter



SACRAMENTO, California — In a dramatic development in a case that has been building since late last year, police raided the San Francisco and Los Angeles offices of the Anti-Defamation League B'nai B'rith (ADL) on April 8. The same day, the San Francisco Superior Court released documents alleging that the prominent Jewish organisation ran a massive nationwide intelligence-gathering operation, targeting a wide spectrum of political groups. Some of the intelligence was sold to South Africa, the documents allege, and, according to earlier reports, some was also sold to Israeli agents.

The scope of the ADL operation described in the documents — files were kept on 950 political groups and more than 12,000 individuals — is stunning. When the investigation became public in January, it appeared to involve mainly local Arab-American and pro-Palestinian organisations. After a city attorney argued that news of the spying had caused Arab-Americans to "fear for their personal safety," a San Francisco Superior Court judge ordered police to provide those who asked with copies of the files kept on them by the ADL's paid agent, Roy Bullock, and his collaborator Tom Gerard, a veteran San Francisco police officer.

However, it seems that the ADL spied on an incredibly broad range of organisations. Those named in published accounts so far include civil rights groups — among them the venerable National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) — environmental organisations such as Greenpeace, ethnic organisations (the Asian Law Caucus, for example), trade unions, newspapers and the board of directors of the San Francisco public television station.

The documents indicate that

much of the information police have recovered so far came from confidential government records. San Francisco authorities believe that the ADL gained access to the records through cooperating police officers in Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and at least four other cities, as well as San Francisco. Police in San Francisco and many other localities are strictly forbidden to spy on non-violent political groups, as is the FBI. But Mr. Gerard has admitted that, when new regulations against police spying in San Francisco took effect in 1991, he, Mr. Bullock and ADL officials met local FBI officials and Bullock — who has been the ADL's paid agent since 1954 — began supplying the FBI with information. The FBI paid Mr. Bullock. His stock in trade was to infiltrate

organisations and search their garbage. He, and the helpers he hired to handle the work load, were paid with ADL funds. Mr. Bullock sorted the thousands of organisations and individuals into categories: "Arab," "Right," "Skins" (Skinheads), "PINKO" and "ANC," the African National Congress. The court documents released last week allege that in the late 1980s Mr. Bullock and Tom Gerard gathered and sold information on anti-apartheid activists and ANC supporters to agents of the South African government, netting \$15,000 over several years.

It was not immediately clear whether officials intend to pursue the allegations they leaked earlier this year that Mr. Tom Gerard sold police intelligence to Israel. During court proceedings in February, San Francisco Assistant District Attorney John Dwyer said that the Gerard-Bullock files contained the name of one of three naturalised Palestinian citizens seized by Israel in January as Hamas "paymasters." The San Francisco Examiner reported that a source family — with the case had identified the named man as Mohammad Jarad of Chicago.

Mr. Gerard was known to keep extensive files on Palestinian and Arab organisations in the U.S. In 1991 he was one of a number of police officers to participate in a trip to Israel hosted by the ADL. The organisation has insisted that its police tours are to promote interdenominational understanding. It remains to be seen whether officers in other cities who enjoyed ADL's junkets to Israel will turn out to be linked to its spying operation.

It is a federal crime to provide intelligence to a foreign government. But Mr. Bullock, who has begun talking to the police in exchange for at least partial immunity, has insisted that the

Women's activism

Politiced more than social, acrimonious more than harmonious

By Susan Ghoshel
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Women activists and political analysts see the women's movement as one of the factors that have contributed to weakening their status in Jordan.

Researcher and writer on women's issues Subair Al Tal says: "the situation women are in is a reflection of the women's movement and the crisis in the women's movement is a reflection of the status of women in society."

Feminists accuse the women's movement of concentrating on politics and overlooking women's issues, for which the movement was originally established.

Asma Khader, who was recently elected president of the Women's Union in Jordan, says the strong relationship between women's organisations and women activists on the one hand, and these organisations and activist and political parties on the other influences the path of the women's movement, giving priority to the political over the social.

Ms. Tal affirms that the women's movement was brought to life by political parties and was not the result of a widespread demand by women. Thus, she maintains, women's organisations and activists, who are affiliated with political parties, fight for women issues only to the extent that their parties are willing to fight for them.

Historically, Ms. Tal says, women's rights have been the last item on the agenda of political parties and the first issue to be conceded in order to achieve other goals.

Ms. Khader and Ms. Tal further believe that women leaders usually use the women's movement as a mechanism to promote the ideas of their political parties and to increase their party's membership.

The head of the Jordanian Democratic Women's League and member of the Jordanian Democratic People's Party, Majida Al Masri, considers, however, the relationship between political parties and the women's movement to be a positive phenomenon. She believes that women's concerns and problems cannot be isolated from those of society at large. "It is a matter of democratic rights," she says. "Only by linking these issues," she maintains, "could we improve the current conditions."

Jordan has a few hundred women's associations, five democratic women's organisations which belong to different political



parties and two women's unions. Ms. Tal says the fragmentation of the movement into so many groups, partly due to political differences, weakens the movement tremendously.

Ms. Masri, however, does not perceive the existence of different women's organisations as a problem as long as a union, that would include all women regardless of their political affiliations and ideologies, is formed. "Our first priority is to form a united movement that represents all women ... This will make us a strong force," she says.

Although Ms. Khader and Ms. Tal are optimistic about achieving such a union, analysts say that its formation, in the short run, is doubtful if women leaders do not change their working methodology; if they do not move beyond self-promotion, for them, and beyond quarrelling over who gets what seats.

Ms. Khader believes the existence of a number of women's organisations is not negative, it is part of democracy and pluralism. But, she maintains, these organisations need to stop their internal bickering and to learn to work in harmony.

The absence of a "theoretical framework" to liberate women has also contributed to the weakening of the women's movement says Ms. Tal. "Individuals and organisation in the women's movement all raise the same slogans but they do not have philosophical backgrounds for the liberation of women," she says.

Ms. Khader agrees with Ms. Tal, explaining that the lack of a theoretical framework led the movement to "raise slogans without translating them into action."

Ms. Khader hopes that the women's movement will soon adopt human rights as their theoretical framework.



In addition, the three women interviewed emphasised that the absence of political freedoms in the past and interference in and suppression of the women's movement are also contributing factors to the debilitated status of the movement.

Young women are not attracted to a movement led totally by middle aged women who have held the same position for decades, Ms. Tal said, thus adding to the isolation of the movement.

In addition, the three women interviewed emphasised that the absence of political freedoms in the past and interference in and suppression of the women's movement are also contributing factors to the debilitated status of the movement.

Sports

Davis Cup Singapore, S. Arabia promoted to Group 2

DOHA (Agencies) — Singapore and Saudi Arabia won the qualifying places from the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania zone Group three tournament which finished Sunday.

Singapore beat the United Arab Emirates 2-1 and Saudi Arabia beat Syria by the same score in their final matches.

Lebanon was third in the group which also involved Bahrain, Bangladesh and Qatar.

Saudi Arabia got off to a flying start against second from bottom Syria, as Badar Al Megayel beat Shafeeq Diah 6-3, 6-3.

But Syria made a fight of it when Kahian Malki came from behind to defeat Othman Al Enezi in three sets.

Megayel and Enezi then found themselves down in the doubles to Ahmad Diah and Shafeeq Diah before clinching victory 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Singapore also had to stage a recovery operation against the United Arab Emirates, who were third in the eight-nation table at the start of the day and had an outside chance of qualifying themselves.

Manual Gayon them a perfect start beating Singapore's Mark Choy 6-1, 7-6, 7-5.

Chee Yen Chen then levelled the tie comfortably defeating Salem Dasmal 6-1, 6-1.

Chen and Wei Pin Choo then clinched a three set doubles to book their place in Group 2 next year.

Qatar finished at the bottom after going down 0-3 to Bahrain.

First round of NBA playoffs gets underway Thursday

By Chris Sheridan
The Associated Press

SUNDAY WAS SUPPOSED to be a day that mattered, a season-ending day featuring nationally televised games with playoff implications — Chicago Vs. New York for the best record in the east, Detroit Vs. New Jersey for the final spot in the east.

It turned into the exact opposite — a day of nine almost meaningless games, nine with no influence on the opening round of the playoffs.

The playoff picture, at least what was left of it, came into full focus Saturday night. Indiana beat Miami to clinch to final Eastern berth, and Charlotte, New Jersey and Atlanta all learned their playoff seedings before midnight.

All the Western Conference seedings were determined by Friday night.

The first round of the playoff gets underway Thursday night, and the action doesn't let up at least until mid-June. Here's a look ahead at the opening-round series, and how the teams did against each other in the regular season.

Eastern Conference

The Knicks have the best conference record and it looks like they'll make it to the second round fairly easily.

New York won the season series with Indiana three games to one, getting double-figure scoring from five players in each game. Patrick Ewing has a distinct advantage over Indiana centre Rik Smits and the Pacers just don't have the bulk to match up with New York's front line.

The big matchup in this series is between Michael Jordan and Dominique Wilkins, the top two scorers in the league. Wilkins outscored Jordan 34.8 to 32.8 in the teams' four matchups, but each team won two games. The key in the playoffs will be depth, and Chicago has the advantage in that area.

"You have to contain Nique, not let him get his 30, and keep Kevin Willis off the boards," Bulls forward Horace Grant said. "They're not a one-man show anymore."

In a matchup of two teams that ended the season going in opposite directions, Cleveland seems to have the advantage. The Cavaliers won 11 of their last 12, while the Nets lost 10 of their final 11 and have lost Kenny Anderson, Drazen Petrovic and Chris Dudley to injuries.

The season series was a 2-2 split, with no game decided by more than six points. A big factor in this series will be the injury to Anderson, which could allow Cavaliers point guard Mark Price to move forward.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Brian Clough steps down at Nottingham Forest

NOTTINGHAM (AP) — Brian Clough, who won two European Cup titles and numerous accolades in 18 years as manager of Nottingham Forest, is retiring at the end of the season. Forest chairman Fred Reacher announced Monday that Clough would stay at the helm for the team's two remaining games. Pressure on Clough to step down has mounted in recent weeks. Forest, next-to-last in the 22-team Premier League, is trying to stave off English's top soccer division for the first time since 1977.

Hunting Hawk takes Prix Greffulhe

PARIS (R) — Hunting Hawk, owned by Sheikh Mohammed and trained by the all-conquering Andre Fabre, ran out a fine winner of the Prix Greffulhe at Longchamp Sunday. Ridden by French champion Thierry Jarnet, Hunting Hawk beat Bigstone by a length and a half with stablemate Talloires a similar distance back in third. An unlucky loser of the Prix de Courcelles at the same track three weeks ago, Hunting Hawk made no mistake this time, getting into his stride quicker despite the extremely soft ground.

Korda, Lendl, Stich top three in Munich Open

MUNICH (AP) — Peter Korda, Ivan Lendl and Michael Stich are the top three seeds respectively for the \$300,000 BMW Open tennis tournament that starts in Munich Monday. Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine plays Cedric Pioline. Other notables in the

dominate backup Rumeal Robinson.

"Just two weeks ago we were hoping to get into the playoffs. Now we're hoping to make some noise," Hornets coach Allan Bristow said.

Charlotte could do just that if it can carry the momentum from a five-game, season-ending winning streak into the playoffs. Boston won the season series three games to one, but the first three games were played in the season's first 60 days.

Western Conference

This series shapes up as possibly the biggest mismatch of the playoffs. The Suns finished 43 games over .500, the Lakers were four games below. Phoenix has been waiting all year for a chance to prove its regular-season dominance was no fluke, the Lakers had to fight all season to qualify for the eighth playoff berth for a second straight year.

Phoenix swept the season series 5-0, winning by 10, 16, 28, 15 and 1.

The Trail Blazers have dropped six wins from last year, when they went to the NBA finals and lost to Chicago, and Clyde Drexler has been slowed all year by hamstring problems. The Spurs, meanwhile, made one of the NBA's best turnarounds following the early-season firing of Jerry Tarkanian.

This season series was also a split, each team winning two games. This playoff series could turn out to be one of the best.

The Rockets swept the season series four games to none, with Hakeem Olajuwon posting a double-double in each game to average 21.3 points and 12.3 rebounds.

Not including its Sunday night game with San Antonio, Houston won 11 of its last 12 and 28 of its last 33 and has played extremely well since the season's midpoint. The Clippers (41-41) finished at .500 to qualify for the second straight year, but they will have plenty of trouble against a bigger, more talented opponent.

Once again it's a matchup of two teams heading in opposite directions. The Supersonics finished at 55-27, an eight-win improvement over 1991-92. The Jazz went to the exact opposite direction, dropping eight wins from its 55-27 record of last season.

The season series was tied 2-2, with no game decided by more than 11 points. Seattle will try to benefit from the midseason acquisition of playoff veteran Sam Perkins while Utah will look to overcome its longstanding postseason problems (three wins in nine playoff series).

Bulgaria suffers first boxing fatality

SOFIA (R) — An 18-year-old amateur lightweight died at the National Junior Championships in Bulgaria's first boxing fatality, sports officials said Monday. The championships were postponed for two weeks after Alexander Kostadinov, who was wearing a protective headguard, collapsed Sunday and died in hospital. The death came only weeks before the Amateur World Championships start in Tampere, Finland, May 7. Doctors said the boxer died from two brain hemorrhages but were waiting for the results of an autopsy.

Schuster heading home

BONN (AFP) — Germany's Bernd Schuster is set to rejoin his home town club Bayer Leverkusen after twelve years playing in Spain for Barcelona, Real Madrid, and Atletico Madrid. Schuster, 33, who won 21 caps for Germany before retiring from international football in 1986, has just broken his contract with Atletico Madrid. The midfield star hopes to complete the move Tuesday.

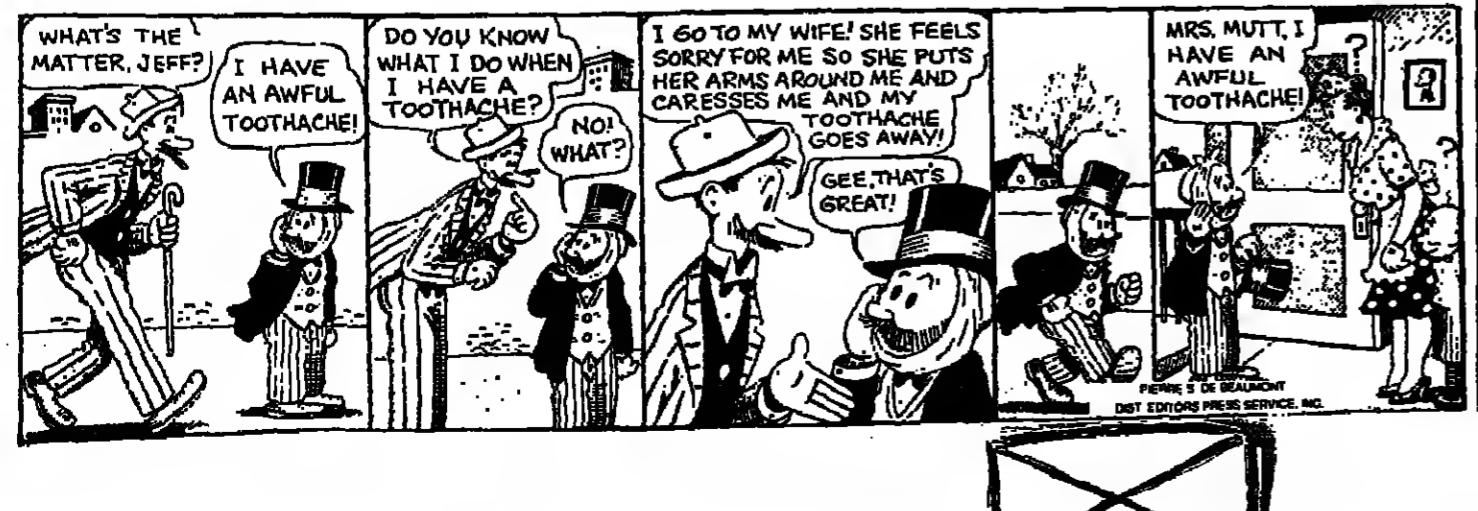
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



JORDAN SIXTH IN ASIAN BASKETBALL: Jordan's U-22 national basketball team settled for 6th place in the Asian Youth Basketball Championship in Hong Kong, after its 51-49 loss to Indonesia. Jordan had beaten Malaysia 60-45 in the first round but later lost the chance to qualify for the semifinal round when they surprisingly lost 75-65 to Japan. Jordan later beat Hong Kong 68-48. Taipei won the title after overcoming South Korea 80-77, while Japan finished third after scoring an 88-79 win over the Philippines.

Van Basten fails to ease Milan crisis

PARIS (AFP) — Italian champions AC Milan took another step toward turning a drama into a crisis by failing to win for the sixth straight league game Sunday.

Their goalless draw at lowly Udinese let neighbours Internazionale, who beat Ancona 3-0, get within four points and set up an exciting climax to the Serie A with five matches to play.

AC Milan were without Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard but welcomed back third Dutchman Marco van Basten in the second half for his first appearance since last Dec. 13.

Van Basten, who has been recovering from an ankle operation, showed a few deft touches. But Fabio Capello's team still suffered from start to finish of the game in front of 40,000 fans — nearly all of whom were urging a new upset for the European Championship Cup finalists.

Milan had a record 58-game unbeaten run ended by Parma on March 21 and have not won since. Their lead has been cut from 11 points a month ago and Inter have never had such high hopes of overtaking their once-invincible neighbours in the San Siro Stadium.

Inter, who are in turn unbeaten in 13 games, had Uruguayan striker Ruben Sosa, who scored twice, to thank for their win over relegated Ancona.

In recent weeks, Baggio has scored three goals in the UEFA Cup semi-final games against Paris St. Germain, one of Italy's goals in the 2-0 win over Estonia and another in Juventus's 3-1 win over AC Milan last weekend.

Cup Winners Cup finalists Parma are third with Juventus 10 points after beating AS Roma 3-1. Marco Osio scored twice in that game.

Lazio are also joint third on 34 points — five behind Inter — after Giuseppe Signori also got a last gasp penalty that took the Serie A's leading scorer's tally to 23.

In Belgium, where Anderlecht long ago secured the title, Seraina won the second division title to earn promotion.

The French and Spanish championships were given a weekend off as their national sides prepared for World Cup qualifiers Wednesday.



Lazio's Karl-Heinz Riedle (left) is tackled by Brazilian Carlos Dunca (centre) playing for Pescara during the Italian First Division match. In the background, Lazio's Massimiliano Allegri. Lazio won 2-1 (AP photo).

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ K 7 4
♦ J 7 3
♦ A K Q J 8
♦ K 6
WEST
♦ 6
V A K 9 8 5
♦ 10 6 2
♦ 8 5 4 3
♦ 8 7 3 2
SOUTH
♦ J 10 9 8 5 3
V Q 4
♦ 7
♦ A Q 10 4
EAST
♦ A Q 2
T 10 6 2
T 8 5 4 3
T 9 5 4 3
SOUTH
♦ J 10 9 8 5 3
V Q 4
♦ 7
♦ A Q 10 4

The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

"Ah, Hastings, mon ami, it is a sad day when they try to fool me and get away with murder by concealing!" This was not a case involving mayhem that had occasioned such an outburst from the great Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot, but rather an incident at the bridge club.

Their opponents had arrived at four spades on a direct auction after North had opened the bidding with one no trump, and Poirot had attacked with the king of hearts, to which Hastings had correctly fol-

lowed with the deuce. Declarer dropped the queen!

"Of course, I realized from the

outset that you would have contributed the two of hearts even had you held four cards in the suit — you know that I cannot abide count signals at trick one and insist that we show attitude whether we want a continuation or not. Therefore, I realized that declarer's card could have been honest.

"As usual at such times, I put those little gray cells to work. Let's suppose that you held the ace-queen of clubs. Even if we could collect two club tricks, that would not be enough to defeat the contract. Declarer would then have been marked with the ace of spades and, at best, we would have to hope for an unexpected trump trick — unless, of course, we had a second heart trick coming and declarer was trying to take me in."

"Once that was clear, it was a simple matter to continue with the ace of hearts at trick two. Notice that I had shifted to a minor suit,

declarer would have wrapped up 10 tricks with ease. As it was, down one was all he deserved for trying to, how you say, stretch the wool over my eyes."

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1993

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1993.
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

The Moon square Mercury and the oppositions to Neptune and Uranus won't provide you with the chances to get into the modern swing of things so hold on to those conservative routines. Be streamlined.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

You now find you want to be off to new scenes and new personalities, but it is a day when satisfactory results would not follow in the long run.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 18)

Your hunches are most inaccurate today and you would also be wise in double-checking your judgment and make sure you understand conditions perfectly.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 19)

You find the outside world a pretty difficult and unsatisfactory place to be today so don't contact anyone who is apt to be in a bad humor.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19)

You find whatever activities you had planned to engage in today can have elements you had not anticipated so be prepared to change your thinking.

LEO: (July 22 August 21)

It is not the day to commit yourself to any entertainment or amusements that are expensive or that have an element of risk associated with them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 18)

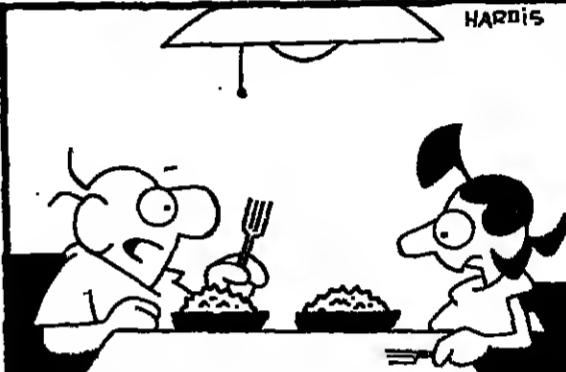
Friends and acquaintances could be a real disappointment to you today and tonight if you expect much of them so go more on your own steam, ideas.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20)

Try to steer clear of matters of a public or worldly nature and persons who are influential for they are not likely to be helpful to you this day.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



Palestinians head for bilaterals

(Continued from page 1)

territories within eight months," he added.

Mr. Husseini will take part for the first time in the negotiations since the peace talks were launched in October 1991.

Israel had barred him from the negotiating table amid fears that the status of "annexed" Arab East Jerusalem, where he lives, will be open for negotiations.

"I will attend certain sessions as part of the negotiating team led by Haider Abdul Shafi and will also attend multilateral sessions," he said.

Hardline Palestinian groups have condemned the Palestinian decision to return to peace talks with Israel and called for a general strike in the West Bank and Gaza Tuesday.

An alliance of 10 groups said in a statement on Monday the peace talks were a threat to the Palestinians and to the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and vowed to continue attempts to stop them.

"The Palestinian decision to join the next round of talks constitutes a threat to our national rights, the uprising and the unity of our people," the statement said.

"All those Palestinians should be in their homes in the occupied

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- The American Center, Tel. 820101

- The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620

said.

It said leaders of the 10 groups had met and agreed to call a general strike in the West Bank and Gaza Tuesday.

They said they held the Palestinian negotiators and the PLO leadership responsible for "any negative consequences resulting from their participation in the peace talks."

"Those people constitute only a minority of the Palestinians. They do not represent us and any decision they make is not binding," the statement said.

They also called on the families of the Palestinian expellees in South Lebanon to hold rallies outside the homes of Palestinian negotiators to protest at their participation in the talks.

Among the 10 were two of the main components of the PLO, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, as well as the fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad organisations and pro-Syrian groups based in Damascus.

But Mr. Arafat warned in a message broadcast to rallies in Gaza Saturday and Sunday: "Those who are not on the political map today will not be on the geographical map tomorrow."

"We are going to the talks and keeping the heat on our enemies at the same time," the PLO leader said.

"When the day comes we will hoist the Palestinian flag on the mosques and churches of Jerusalem," Mr. Arafat said.

Israel

(Continued from page 1)

that the United States would be a "full partner" in the talks, but declined to explain exactly what that meant.

Several factors have pushed Washington to become more active: first, Mr. Clinton, finishing a difficult first 100 days in office, would undoubtedly like a foreign policy success, especially given the U.N.'s failure to stop the grim tragedy ripping apart Bosnia.

Washington also fears that increased violence in Israel and the occupied territories makes it more difficult to negotiate a solution to the fighting.

OIC takes tough step on Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)

international norms."

"The tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina represents an open challenge to the world community, which should end the conflict and halt the Serbian onslaught."

"The ongoing genocide launched by the Serbian forces in violation of all international rules and the continuous ethnic cleansing practices committed against the Muslim people reflect the world community's double standard dealing with world issues," Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jafer said.

The minister described as barbaric and inhuman the Serbian attacks on the "innocent civilians, including women, children and old people in violation of all

Proliferation Treaty and must be made to accept inspection of its installations by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), he said. Otherwise the Jewish state would continue to form a source of real threat to world security, he said.

Expressing hope that the Arab-Israeli peace talks which resume Tuesday would achieve concrete results, the minister said that Jordan had been striving to attain a lasting and peaceful settlement to the conflict and the Palestine problem.

Reiterating the Kingdom's total commitment to U.N. Security Council resolution 242 and 338, Dr. Abu Jafer said that the talks should result in the exchange of land for peace, the repatriation of the expellees and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights.

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Bosnian Serbs reject peace plan, stiffer sanctions loom

BIJELINA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — The Bosnian Serb assembly voted unanimously Monday to rebuff an appeal by their Yugoslav patrons to accept a U.N.-sponsored peace plan, setting the stage for stiffer anti-Serb sanctions.

Apparently unfazed by the threat of sanctions, the self-appointed parliament voted 77-0 against a peace plan that was signed by rival Muslims and Croats.

The new international sanctions, set to take effect Tuesday morning, include freezing Yugoslav public and private funds in overseas banks; prohibiting Yugoslav ships from U.N. members' territory; detaining ships, trains and aircraft already abroad; and blockading Yugoslav goods on the vital Danube River.

In Moscow, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev of Russia, a traditional Serbian ally, said his nation now supported the anti-Yugoslav measures.

Looming alongside the sanctions remains possible Western military action.

Under the peace plan, proposed by EC mediator David Owen and U.N. negotiator Cyrus Vance, Bosnian Serbs would have to give up more than one fifth of the 70 per cent of Bosnia Herzegovina that they now hold.

They would also have to accept living in a multi-ethnic Bosnia in which each of the warring factions — the Serbs, Croats and Muslims — would be given control of three provinces and share the administration of Bosnia's capital, Sarajevo.

Clinton sometimes spreads himself too thin'

BOSTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton, nearing the 100-day mark in his presidency, said he has sometimes spread himself too thin and needs to focus on a few big issues at a time.

In an interview with the Boston Globe aboard Air Force One, the president acknowledged that he had his problems in the White House, partly because he was accustomed to doing things differently when he was governor of Arkansas.

"I do think that I may have overextended myself, and we've got to focus on big things," Mr. Clinton said.

"I'm used to a legislative environment where, as governor, I worked up all these initiatives. I put them into the pot and then we worked them through the legislature," he said.

In the three months of his presidency, however, Mr. Clinton said he has learned that "my job as president is to keep the focus of the American people on the bigger issues that are at stake and to make sure they're keeping the focus of the Congress on that so that we don't get into the kind of political game-playing we had in the last week."

The interview followed a tough week for Mr. Clinton. Senate Republicans killed his jobs-stimulus package with a filibuster and the standoff with Branch Davidians in Texas ended in death and destruction.

Mr. Clinton flew to Boston to address a newspaper industry convention on a day when hundreds of thousands were marching for gay and lesbian rights and an end to the ban on gays in the military, an issue that Mr. Clinton has supported at a high political cost.

The *Globe* interview also touched on the war in Bosnia, which Mr. Clinton called "not only heartbreaking, it's infuriating."

Some in Congress have called for U.S. bombing of Serbian artillery positions to slow the "ethnic cleansing" campaign in Bosnia, but Mr. Clinton expressed strong reservations. He has already ruled out the use of U.S. ground forces.

"I'm convinced that the United States cannot just simply decide to bomb a few targets in Bosnia and reverse the situation on the ground politically," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton has repeatedly stressed his hope that economic sanctions will force the Serbs to agree to a peace plan, but he told the *Globe* "we're reviewing our options."

Asked if he was concerned about his place in history if he did not stop the bloodshed in Bosnia, Mr. Clinton wondered aloud why the killing of as many as 130,000 in that war had received so much more attention than the deaths of more than a million Cambodians during the 1970s.

The assembly announced it would ask Bosnian Serbs in a May 15-16 referendum to vote for a "final word" on the plan.

"We... will continue the fight until the end," the assembly said in a proclamation to end the all-night emergency session.

The assembly's vote came a day after the European Community (EC) 12 foreign ministers backed off a proposal to use military force to end the carnage in Bosnia.

The ministers, meeting in Denmark, had considered possible air strikes in the former Yugoslavia, but after the meeting, several countries expressed doubt that the EC states would ever endorse allied military intervention.

Washington and the NATO allies planned to consult this week about the option of air strikes on Bosnian Serb positions in another attempt to bring a halt to a war that had left 134,000 people dead or missing in Bosnia the past year.

"What happens in the former Yugoslavia is terrible," said German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. "But what can happen in the future may be even more terrible."

With the vote, the Bosnian Serb parliament set the stage for crushing U.N. sanctions beginning Tuesday, much stiffer than economic measures imposed in May to penalise the leftover former Yugoslav Republics of Serbia and Montenegro for fomenting war.

Lord Owen, a former British foreign secretary, called the rebel

Serb rebuff "tragic" and spoke of "very certain... confrontation," between Bosnian Serbs and Europe.

In Musnjev, Mr. Kuzyrev warned the United States "not to do anything totally unilateral. Total Balkan war should be avoided by all costs," he said.

However, he said Russia, which had abstained in the Security Council sanctions vote, now supported the anti-Yugoslav measure.

On Saturday, Britain told Canada it would use air power to protect its Canadian troops providing U.N. humanitarian aid in Srebrenica.

Srebrenica, a town in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina, is surrounded by Serb forces and had been the scene of fierce fighting until a ceasefire a week ago.

Bosnian Serbs remained defiant.

"In case of a military intervention, all U.N. forces... will be regarded as aggressors," said Momiclo Krajkovic, the parliament speaker.

The U.N. platoon commander ended the tense standoff on Sunday in the Konjic region of southwest Bosnia by persuading 60 Croat soldiers to give their weapons to the Muslims in exchange for the group's safe conduct out of the area.

A U.N. protection force spokesman said the incident occurred 20 kilometres west of Konjic, on the main relief aid corridor between the Adriatic Sea and central Bosnia, where Muslims and Croats, estranged civil war allies, have been fighting since April 16.

The assembly, meeting in this northeastern Bosnian town, followed the lead of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who had rejected the plan Sunday in a meeting with Lord Owen.

Serb leaders in Yugoslavia, hoping to avoid further sanctions on an already battered economy, sent a dramatic letter to the assembly early Monday, urging it to approve the plan.

One of the signatories was President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, the dominant republic in what is left of Yugoslavia, whose

officials said Monday.

The aircraft, which crashed in an area of open fields and small industries, may have been carrying many foreigners because the cities on its route are all major tourist stops.

No weather problems were reported when the plane crashed outside the airport at Aurangabad, 680 miles (1,239 kilometres) southwest of New Delhi.

Flight IC 491 left New Delhi at 6 a.m. (0030 GMT) for Jaipur and Aurangabad, and was bound for Bombay. It carried 112 passengers and six crew members and took off from Aurangabad at 1 p.m. (0730 GMT).

Many tourists visit Aurangabad to see the Ajanta and Ellora Caves, which contain sculptures and frescoes that are centuries old and that once adorned ancient Hindu kingdoms.

The accident occurred two days after an Indian Airlines Boeing 737 was hijacked on a flight from New Delhi to the northern city of Srinagar. After negotiating with the armed hijacker for 11 hours in Amritsar, Indian commandos sneaked onto the aircraft and shot and killed him early Sunday.

It was the fourth Indian Airlines hijacking this year.

Earlier this year, an Indian Airlines jetliner leased from Uzbekistan Airlines crash landed in New Delhi, flipped onto its back and broke into pieces, but all 165 people on board survived.

In August 1991, an Indian Airlines Boeing 737 crashed in Imphal, in the Far Eastern state of Manipur, killing all 69 people aboard. The airline's worst domestic crash occurred in 1988 when a Boeing 737 crashed in the city of Ahmedabad, killing 131 people.

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